

MARCH 2008

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES:

ITBS: March 4–10

MARCH 4—PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES 5-8 PM

MARCH 12 EARLY OUT 1:30 PM

MARCH 20 NO SCHOOL (TEACHER IN-SERVICE)

MARCH 21 & 24 SPRING BREAK—NO SCHOOL

MARCH 26 EARLY OUT 1:30 PM

MARCH 28 BIRTHDAY FRIDAY

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents

By this time you should have received the proficient/non-proficient information on your child in reading and math. We feel as a school it is important to continue to communicate assessment information to you. If your child is not proficient in the area of math or reading, the teachers have included suggestions to assist you in helping your child. If you would like to have further conversations concerning the assessment information, I encourage you to contact the classroom teacher. The teachers will continue to analyze the assessment data to make individual and classroom decisions on

instruction and modifications.

For the 3rd month in a row, we continue to decrease office referrals for behavior. This is a 66% decrease. We are very proud of the students and the choices they are making every day!

We begin ITBS the first week of March. Please make every effort to have your children to school on time every day. They need to eat a good breakfast and get plenty of rest each evening. Please have a conversation with your child about how important the test is and how they should try to do their very best.

Dee Crozier, Principal



HIGH FIVES!

Thanks to the following:

- PTO for providing supper for the teachers during conferences
- PTO for providing \$3,000 for books for the library
- Wal-Mart for \$600 to buy books for the library
- AR Committee for AR Reading Incentive planning
- Character Counts Committee for assembly & reward planning
- Aaron Morrison for volunteering
- Des Moines County Extension Office – 6th grade Life Skills Lessons
- Officer Moore – DARE & GREAT Lessons

BUY-ONE-GET-ONE FREE BOOK FAIR IS HERE!

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair at the elementary through MARCH 5. At this book fair, students will be able to Buy one book and get one free. The book fair will be open during parent-teacher conferences on the evening of March 4.

Please help support our book fair, as the profits from the book fair will allow us to purchase our library more books for the students.



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

When school is cancelled, delayed or dismissed early due to inclement weather, it will be posted on our school web site and broadcast or put on the web sites of the following radio stations:

TV – Channel 6 KWQC

AM Dial

KBUR – 1490 – (www.kbur.com)

KBKB – 1360 – (www.kbkb.com)

FM Dial

KGRS – 107.3 – (www.thenewmix.com)

KBKB – 101.7 – (www.1017thebull.com)

KDMG/Country 103

KKMI – 93.5

Also try www.KCPS.com

Our School Rules Against Bullying

- 1. We will not bully others**
- 2. We help students who are bullied.**
- 3. We will include students who are easily left out.**
- 4. When we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.**

West Burlington PTO Meeting 2/19//08

In attendance: Nicki Moad, Dee Crozier, Tara Thuleen, James Dochterman, Pan Dochterman, Crystal Rolof, Amanda Mincer, Michelle Williams, Lennice Kavallieros, Liz Nelson.

BUSINESS

Fun Fest – The date is Friday April 4 from 5-8 pm. We'll serve hot dogs, pop and chips. For the "Kiss the Pig" raffle, please bring in gallon milk jugs (need 35) to the office so they can be set up March 10 for "voting". Michelle will ask Vista to donate 200 cookies for the cookie table; Amanda will buy frosting and sprinkles. GRADE A PLUS will supply carnival games (football toss, ring toss, bean bag toss, ping pong ball toss, fishing game, pool for the duckie pond), and each grade level will be responsible for a game (homerom parents will need to be contacted; Dee will supply the list to organize volunteers). Also, each class will make a silent auction basket; each teacher will need to set the theme for the class basket and ask parents to donate items or money for the basket. Amanda will organize the silent auction. A sign up for cupcakes for the cupcake walk will be set out at Parent Teacher Conferences.

Parent Teacher Conferences – will be February 28 and March 4. PTO will set up tables for the cupcake sign up for Fun Fest, t-shirt sales, garnering interest in joining PTO. Jennifer Herrick will bring soup for the teachers on the 28th; the Dochterman's will bring sub sandwiches on the 4th.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Yearbook** – Megan with Lifetouch will be at the school 2/20 to take group photos for the yearbook.
- **T-shirts** – will be on sale at PT conferences for \$8/youth and \$10/adult sizes. Colors are green, pink, yellow, orange, or blue with white printing.
- **School requests** – The following were approved as purchases for the school: \$280.68 for geometric blocks for the first grade classrooms (Michelle motioned; Jamie seconded and motion carried). \$3000 for books for the library and classrooms to teach reading strategies (Michelle motioned; Jamie seconded and motion carried).
- **Funding** – Dee announced the kick-off for the Tri-State Fundraiser is September 19. QSP magazine kickoff is February 25. Jamie presented a family portrait opportunity that we will look at for the beginning of the next school year.
- **Upcoming workshop** – Dee invited PTO members to the "Partnering with Parents To Increase Student Achievement" training in Ottumwa on April 18 from 9-3 pm. She encouraged PTO to pay the \$15/member for attendees.
- **Next meeting** – March 18, 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Michelle Williams

Olweus Bullying Information for Parents

Bullying...A student is being bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more students. Bullying implies an imbalance in power or strength. The student who is bullied has difficulty defending himself/herself.

What can parents do if their child is bullied?

1. Help the child develop talents and positive attributes.
2. Encourage the child to make contact with friendly student(s) in their class.
3. Encourage the child to get to know peers in new situations.

What doesn't work if your child is bullied?

1. Ignoring the problem.
2. Blaming your child for provoking bullying.
3. Telling your child to "hit back."
4. Calling the parents of the bully—unless there is a friendly relationship between parents.

What can parents do if their child bullies others?

1. Communicate directly to the child:
 - We know you have been involved in bullying.

- Bullying is a serious behavior.
- We will not tolerate any future bullying behavior.

2. Enforce family rules.
2. Reinforce positive and kind behavior.
3. Spend more time with your child.
4. Monitor the child's activities.
5. Build upon the child's talents.
6. Help your child find more appropriate behavior patterns.
7. Seek professional assistance, if necessary.

What doesn't work if your child bullies others?

1. Ignoring the problem.
2. Denying that your child could do such a thing as bullying.
3. Protecting the child from consequences.
4. Blaming the victim for your child's problems.

VOLUNTARY 4 YEAR OLD PRE-SCHOOL GRANT

West Burlington Elementary is in the process of writing a grant for a voluntary 4 year old pre-school for next year. At this time, we are working to gather data on the need for a pre-school program in West Burlington. If you have a child or know of a child who will be 4 years old by September 15, 2008, and would be interested in having them enrolled in the pre-school program, please call the school (754-5726) so we can add them to our list. If you would like more information on the grant and the possibility of a pre-school for 4 year olds, please contact Mrs. Crozier. Of course, this is a grant, so the school would need to be awarded the money before a program could be started.

ITBS

The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills will be given to students in K-6 the first week of March. Good attendance is extremely important since we want the students to do as well as possible.

While it is not good to “hype” these tests up too much and create anxiety, it would be particularly beneficial if all parents were to make sure bed times are strictly observed, and all students take time to eat some breakfast during the first week in March.

SECOND GRADE NEWS MS. NELSON, MRS. REID, MRS. SLEISTER

Second grade students have had a busy school year. We just finished a unit on fractions in math and have learned how to regroup with two-digit addition and subtraction. Knowing our basic facts really speeds up the computation, and we've been working on strategies to learn them. We've been using the computer program MATH IN A FLASH as well. In the weeks ahead, we'll be working with time, measurement, numbers to 1,000, and addition/subtraction of three-digit numbers. Additional practice at home with basic facts, counting money, and telling time helps your child succeed in the classroom.

The students have been reading lots of AR books to reach their third quarter goals with an average of at least 85% over their quizzes. We encourage them to read each short book three times before testing, and take a book home each night to share. This will help with one of our school-wide reading goals of improving fluency. March is the last month of the Pizza Hut BOOK IT reading program that many of the students have participated in.

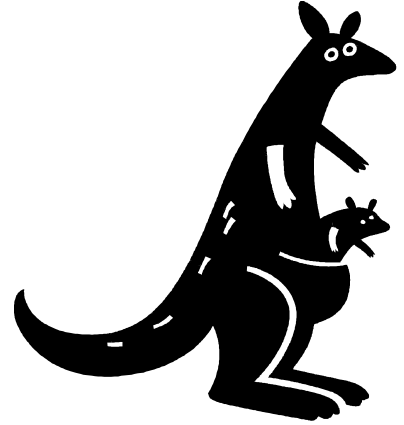
Rhonda Coffey from the Des Moines County Extension Office has made several visits to our classrooms. She has shared many interesting books and activities that tie into our science curriculum such as dinosaurs, penguins, and whales. Next month we'll be learning about oviparous—animals that lay eggs.

The RSVP volunteers have presented a program to our second graders called “POLITE IS RIGHT.” This was a six-week program designed to teach and encourage the use of considerate behavior in social settings. It ties in well with our Character Counts program.

March 3 we will celebrate READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY in honor of Dr. Seuss.

We're looking forward to nicer weather with the beginning of spring!

CARING



- BE KIND.
- BE COMPASSIONATE & SHOW YOU CARE.
- EXPRESS GRATITUDE.
- FORGIVE OTHERS.
- HELP PEOPLE IN NEED.

Character Counts Coupon for MARCH

CARING

(PLEASE RETURN ON OR BEFORE MARCH 31.)

MY CHILD _____ DEMONSTRATED THE CHARACTER OF CARING BY:

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

- SIX CHARACTER COUNTS TRAITS WILL BE FEATURED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. EACH TRAIT BEIGN EMPHASIZED FOR ONE MONTH.
- STUDENTS MUST RETURN ONE COUPON PER MONTH FOR THE FEATURED TRAIT.
- STUDENTS WHO RETURN ALL 6 COUPONS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHARACTER COUNTS PICNIC HELD AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

**As we strive to instill the quality of responsibility in our students,
No late coupons will be accepted!**